

Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety and Sexual Health Education FAQs

[Public Act 102-0522](#) sets forth criteria for all classes that teach comprehensive personal health and safety and comprehensive sexual health education. The Act requires the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to develop and adopt learning standards to include, but not be limited to, all of the [National Sex Education Standards](#), including information on consent and healthy relationships, anatomy and physiology, puberty and adolescent sexual development, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation and identity, sexual health, and interpersonal violence. A school district may provide age and developmentally appropriate consent education for kindergarten through 12th grades.



1. What is comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education?



The Act defines comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education as age and developmentally appropriate education that aligns with the National Sex Education Standards, including information on consent and healthy relationships, anatomy and physiology, puberty and adolescent sexual development, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation and identity, sexual health, and interpersonal violence.



2. When must schools that elect to require comprehensive sexual health education be required to implement it?



Districts that elect to require comprehensive sexual health education will be required to provide instruction immediately in accordance with the provisions of the Act.



3. How does comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education differ?



Comprehensive personal health and safety education refers to the age and developmentally appropriate education learning standards provided to students in kindergarten through the fifth grade, while comprehensive sexual health education refers to the age and developmentally appropriate education learning standards provided to students in Grades 6 through 12.



4. Are school districts required to offer comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education?



School districts will continue to have discretion over whether they provide comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education to students. All classes in which comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education are taught shall satisfy the criteria outlined in the Act.





5. Are students required to participate in a comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education course? Can a student be opted out of such course?



No student is required to take or participate in any class or course in comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education. A student's parent or guardian may opt the student out of such a course by submitting the request in writing.



6. Are school districts required to share the instructional materials used in teaching comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education with individuals (e.g., parents, guardians) for review?



A school district shall provide individuals, such as parents or guardians, an opportunity to review the scope and sequence of instructional materials that the district is utilizing to teach a class or course in comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education.

In addition, a school district shall annually post on its website which curriculum is used to provide comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education. Contact information, including email addresses, of school personnel who can respond to inquiries regarding course instruction and materials should also be posted.



7. What are the course material and instruction criteria for teaching comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education?



As in all decisions related to the adoption of particular curricular resources at the local level regardless of content area, selected curriculum may be adapted to meet local needs (based on specific demographic, ethnic, linguistic, or cultural groups). Adaptations may not interfere with the course alignment to the comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education learning standards. Course material and instruction used in all classes that teach comprehensive personal health and safety and comprehensive sexual health education shall satisfy the following criteria:

- Shall be age and developmentally appropriate, medically accurate, complete, culturally appropriate, inclusive, and trauma informed.
- Shall replicate evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or substantially incorporate elements of evidence-based programs or evidence-informed programs or characteristics of effective programs.
- Shall be inclusive and sensitive to the needs of students based on their status as pregnant or parenting; living with sexually transmitted infections, including HIV; sexually active, asexual, or intersex; or based on their gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, sexual behavior, or disability.
- Shall be accessible to students with disabilities, which may include the use of a modified curriculum, materials, instruction in alternative formats, assistive technology, and auxiliary aids.
- Shall help students develop self-advocacy skills for effective communication with parents or guardians, health and social service professionals, other trusted adults, and peers about sexual health and relationships.
- Shall provide information to help students develop skills for developing healthy relationships and preventing and dealing with interpersonal violence and sexual violence.
- Shall provide information to help students safely use the internet, including social media, dating, relationship websites or applications, and texting.

- Shall provide information about local resources where students can obtain additional information and confidential services related to parenting, bullying, interpersonal violence, sexual violence, suicide prevention, sexual and reproductive health, mental health, substance abuse, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and other related issues.
- Shall include information about state laws related to confidentiality and consent as they pertain to minors, including exceptions, consent education, mandated reporting of child abuse and neglect, the safe relinquishment of a newborn child, minors' access to confidential health care and related services, school policies addressing the prevention of and response to interpersonal and sexual violence, school breastfeeding accommodations, and school policies addressing the prevention of and response to sexual harassment.
- May not reflect or promote bias against any person on the basis of the person's race, ethnicity, language, cultural background, citizenship, religion, HIV status, family structure, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or sexual behavior.
- May not employ gender stereotypes.
- Shall be inclusive of and may not be insensitive or unresponsive to the needs of survivors of interpersonal violence and sexual violence.
- May not proselytize any religious doctrine.
- May not deliberately withhold health-promoting or life-saving information about culturally appropriate health care and services, including reproductive health services; hormone therapy; and treatments and options approved by the Food and Drug Administration, including, but not limited to, Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PeP).
- May not be inconsistent with the ethical imperatives of medicine and public health.

Per PA 102-0522, schools may choose and adapt the age and developmentally appropriate, medically accurate, complete, culturally appropriate, inclusive, and trauma-informed comprehensive personal health and safety and comprehensive sexual health education curriculum that meets the specific needs of their community. All instruction and materials, including materials provided or presented by outside consultants, community groups, or organizations, may not conflict with the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a.



8. Can school districts seek outside presenters to provide course materials and instruction?



Yes, guest lecturers or resource persons may be utilized to provide instruction or presentations on comprehensive personal health and safety education and comprehensive sexual health education. All instruction and materials, including materials provided or presented by outside consultants, community groups, or organizations, may not conflict with the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a.



9. What information must school districts provide to ISBE?



Each school district must provide the following data to ISBE:

1. If instruction on comprehensive personal health and safety and comprehensive sexual health education is provided;
2. Whether the instruction was provided by a teacher in the school, a consultant, or a community group or organization and the name of the outside community group or organization;
3. The number of students receiving instruction;

4. The number of students excused from instruction; and
5. The duration of instruction.

ISBE is required to report this information to the General Assembly annually for a period of five years beginning August 20, 2022. ISBE collects this information via an electronic survey that is shared with districts in the summer after the completion of each school year, beginning with the 2021-22 school year.



10. What is required of ISBE?



The Act requires that ISBE develop and adopt rigorous learning standards in the area of comprehensive personal health and safety education for students in kindergarten through the fifth grade and comprehensive sexual health education for students in the sixth through 12th grades, including, but not limited to, all of the National Sex Education Standards, on or before August 1, 2022. The National Sex Education Standards are the new Illinois learning standards for sexual health education effective July 13, 2022.



11. Where can school districts find the standards and resources that ISBE will make available?



School districts may locate resources on comprehensive personal health and safety education, comprehensive sexual health education, and consent education at www.isbe.net/sexualhealth.



12. Does ISBE collect information about which districts are opting in or out of sexual health education in the coming school year or publish a list of this data?



No. ISBE will collect data on whether or not instruction was offered in sexual health education in the past school year during the summer (as described in A-9) and report the data to the General Assembly.



13. Can the standards for comprehensive personal health and safety and sexual health education be adapted for grade or community considerations?



No. A district that elects to teach comprehensive personal health and safety and comprehensive sexual health education cannot adapt or change the state-adopted learning standards. A course in comprehensive personal health and safety and comprehensive sexual health education that is offered must incorporate all topic strands in the standards. Districts that elect to teach comprehensive personal health and safety and sexual health education may adapt curriculum as discussed in A-7.



14. What about instructional mandates? If a district is not adopting the standards, does it still teach Erin's Law or health courses?



Topics that fall under a separate instructional mandate must continue to be taught if a district is opting not to adopt the standards.



15. May comprehensive personal health and safety and comprehensive sexual health be taught in some grades but not others?



Yes. The standards cover instruction in Grades K-12. Districts adopting the standards must incorporate them in any grade receiving instruction in comprehensive personal health and safety and sexual health education but may choose which grades receive such instruction.



16. Is there a difference between offering instruction in a course, class, or unit?



No. Instruction in comprehensive personal health and safety and comprehensive sexual health education must incorporate the standards.

If you have other questions, please email SexualHealthEducation@ISBE.net.

